

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-14 are pending. The status identifiers for Claims 5, 8 and 11-14 have been revised as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 3 and 5-7 are subject to examination. The Applicants submit that new Claims 9 and 10 also conform to the prior restriction and election requirement and should be examined. Examination of Claims 11-14 is also requested, upon an indication of allowability for the elected species.

The Applicants thank Examiner Switzer for notifying them that the clearer versions of Figs. 3 and 4 submitted with the last response were only very poorly readable when subsequently scanned into the image file wrapper. The Applicants have confirmed this problem by accessing the PAIR system. As requested, the Applicants provided on November 4, 2004 copies of the clearer versions of these figures directly to the examiner. The Applicants understand that these figures may be entered as artifacts into the official record.

The Applicants reiterate their previous responses to the rejections of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks the Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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